

Prop: For all sets A and B we have

$$(A \setminus B) \cup (A \cap B) = A$$

pf: Let A and B be arbitrary sets.

We compute as follows:

$$(A \setminus B) \cup (A \cap B)$$

$$= \{x : x \in A \setminus B \text{ or } x \in A \cap B\} \quad (\text{Def}^n \text{ of union})$$

$$= \{x : (x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B) \text{ or } x \in A \cap B\} \quad (\text{Def}^n \text{ of set difference})$$

$$= \{x : (x \in A \text{ and } x \notin B) \text{ or } (x \in A \text{ and } x \in B)\} \quad (\text{Def}^n \text{ of intersection})$$

$$= \{x : x \in A \text{ and } (x \notin B \text{ or } x \in B)\} \quad (\text{Distributivity of "and" over "or"})$$

$$= \{x : x \in A \text{ and } (\text{True})\} \quad (\text{Law of Exclusive Middle})$$

$$= \{x : x \in A\} \quad (\text{Simplification: } P \wedge T \equiv P)$$

$$= A$$

Hence we conclude $(A \setminus B) \cup (A \cap B) = A$, as claimed.

